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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Plauen

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 17 May 1953, the Hindenburg Kaserne, Plauen, was occupied by an estimated 600 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, including about 15 to 20 percent with artillery insignia and about 10 percent with signal and motor transport insignia; and by about 25 uniformed women. About 200 to 300 troops organized in groups of 40 to 60 soldiers daily marched to the post drill ground. The troops were armed with rifles and submachine guns and, occasionally, with entrenching tools. Beginning in early May, training activity in the installation increased slightly. About 40 to 60 troops, organized in groups, daily received individual drill at the eastern border of the installation. In some cases, aiming practice and gun displacement with not more than four 57-mm AT guns were observed. On 13 May, four 120-mm mortars were seen leaving the installation. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation

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2. Prior to 17 May, the Koenig-Georg Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 350 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 50 percent with artillery insignia and, a few, with signal and motor transport insignia; and by about 15 uniformed women. Groups of 6 to 10 soldiers, drilling without rifles, were occasionally seen in the installation. Details of 25 to 30 soldiers, sometimes armed with carbines and carrying entrenching tools, were repeatedly seen leaving for the post drill ground. Two 122-mm field howitzers were in the northeast section of the installation. A wooden shed, which was to serve as motion picture theater or club, was under construction in the northeast corner of the barracks area. Motor vehicles seen en route to the installation

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3. Prior to 17 May, the Kirchbach Kaserne was occupied as previously by an estimated 180 to 200 troops. Except for the economic building, two quartering buildings on Zadera Strasse were occupied. The northern building on Zadera Strasse was occupied by about 120 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia; and the southern building was occupied by a signal unit of an estimated 60 to 80 soldiers. About 66 percent of the troops of the signal unit wore red-bordered black epaulets, including a few with signal insignia, and 33 percent wore black-bordered black epaulets, including a few with signal insignia. Since recently, individual soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia, had been observed. An air

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25X1 force detail of a lieutenant and five EM was in connection with the signal
 25X1 unit. [] about 20 troops [] were
 cleaning five 76.2-mm field guns. Radio truck [] with a rod antenna,
 about 5 meters high, was still at the north side of the drill hall. The air
 force personnel was seen with this truck. A wire connected the quarters
 of the signal unit and the drill hall, with a branch-off leading to the
 radio truck. Furthermore, the radio truck and the quarters of the signal unit
 were connected by a rubber-insulated wire. A telephone line on wooden poles
 emerged from the northwest side of the installation toward Greiz. This line
 could be traced as far as to the Plauen-Syrau airfield. The line had been
 strung by Soviets. Six of the 12 wires of the line branched off near the
 installation to the radar station on Warthuebel near Neundorf, and another
 25X1 12-wire overhead line connected the southwest corner of the installation
 with the radar station. The Kirchbach Kaserne and the Hindenburg Kaserne
 were connected by a 2-wire line, while the quartering building of the signal
 unit was connected with the local telephone system by two rubber-insulated
 25X1 wires and about 15 other wires. Motor vehicles []
 [] were seen en route to the installation.

4. Prior to 17 May, the quarters of the former post hospital were occupied by
 100 to 150 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Unusually many
 25X1 officers, mostly wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets, were seen. [] 25X1
 25X1 [] Several de-
 tails from the Hindenburg Kaserne marched to the hospital every weekend. 1
 25X1 [] they took showers at the hospital. An average of 15 to
 20 motor vehicles were parked in the hospital area. []
 25X1 [] a sedan of the border police picked up a Soviet officer. A lieutenant
 25X1 colonel from the Koenig-Georg Kaserne was recently picked up by a sedan of
 the border police. [] the VP vehicles belonged
 25X1 to the border police unit at the Plauen-Syrau airfield. Truck []
 25X1 which was repeatedly seen at the hospital, belonged to a unit stationed at
 the zonal border [] Motor vehicles []
 25X1 [] were seen en route to the
 25X1 hospital. 2

1. [] Comment. The known occupation of Plauen by the units of the 39th Gds
 25X1 Mtz Rifle Div is thus confirmed [] until mid-May. []
 25X1 [] The signal unit and the air force personnel observed
 belong to the known radar station of the Fighter Division Grossenhain.

2. [] Comment. The observations [] confirm that the elements of the
 25X1 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div employed at the zonal border worked together with
 25X1 the East German border police.

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